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Composition of a Suite for Contemporary Jazz Ensemble

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Composition of a Suite for Contemporary Jazz Ensemble

Brendan Moore

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Jazz Instructor

Blue shifts is the second of a three movement piece written for performance by a nine piece ensemble comprising the following instruments:

- Trumpet
- Alto Saxophone
- Tenor Saxophone
- Trombone
- Guitar
- Piano
- Bass
- Drums
- Percussion

A nine piece ensemble was chosen because it was small enough to facilitate the improvisational aspects of the works, yet still large enough so the application of compositional techniques and devices reserved for large group settings, i.e. Big Band or Orchestra, could still be implemented.

Each movement of the composition was written in a very distinct style drawing on several different sub-categories of the jazz idiom. Mantissa was written as a Bosa Nova. Blue Shifts would be categorized as hard bop. You(Not Me) is a modern waltz. The guitar was used as the primary melodic instrument on all of the movements with the horns acting in several different capacities through out the work. In each movement the horn section was used in dramatically different ways allowing for many different textures to be explored. This project was very important to me because, as an undergraduate in the College of Music, it is necessary to seek out situations and opportunities to employ the concepts and techniques that are taught in the curriculum. In addition, it is a unique situation in which the decisions of what, how and why to write are left up to the composer. In the professional world it is a rare occurrence that one would have such universal control of a work. This project has allowed me the freedom to employ the skills that I have learned and developed as an undergraduate music student.

Composing and arranging provide introspective analysis one's creative ability. The only way to improve the ability is to use it. The Undergraduate Enrichment Program has allowed for just that.

Blue Shifts

Trumpet in Bb

Alto Saxophone

Tenor Saxophone

Trombone

Guitar

Piano

Contrabass

Drum Set

Bb Tpt.

A. Sax.

T. Sax.

Tbn.

Gtr.

Pno.

Cb.

D. S.

E-7 F#-7/b E-7 E-7 F#-7/b G-7/b E-7 F#-7/b E-7

E-7 F#-7/b E-7 E-7 F#-7/b G-7/b E-7 F#-7/b E-7

E-7 F#-7/b E-7 E-7 F#-7/b G-7/b E-7 F#-7/b E-7

G-7/b E-7 F#-7/b E-7 E-7 F#-7/b G-7/b E-7 G#m Abait Chaug

G-7/b E-7 F#-7/b E-7 E-7 F#-7/b G-7/b E-7 G#m Abait Chaug

G-7/b E-7 F#-7/b E-7 E-7 F#-7/b G-7/b

15

E♭ Tpt.

A. Sax.

T. Sax.

Tbn.

Gtr.

Pno.

Cb.

D. S.

15

E major

B-7 C-7 F7 B♭maj7 E-7 A7 D♯maj7

B-7 C-7 F7 B♭maj7 E-7 A7 D♯maj7

B-7 C-7 F7 B♭maj7 E-7 A7 D♯maj7

22

Bb Tpt.

A. Sax.

T. Sax.

Tbn.

22 Eb-7 Ab7 Dm9#7 Eb-7 F#7 Bm9#7 B-7 E7 A#m9#7 Eb-7 Ab7

22 Eb-7 Ab7 Dm9#7 Eb-7 F#7 Bm9#7 B-7 E7 A#m9#7 Eb-7 Ab7

22 Eb-7 Ab7 Dm9#7 Eb-7 F#7 Bm9#7 B-7 E7 A#m9#7 Eb-7 Ab7

22 Eb-7 Ab7 Dm9#7 Eb-7 F#7 Bm9#7 B-7 E7 A#m9#7 Eb-7 Ab7

22


Dr. LAST TIME ONLY


22


D. S.

[illegible]

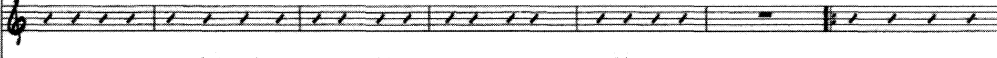
43

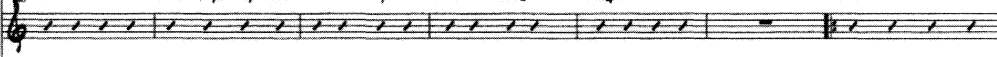
Bb Tpt.  8-7


A. Sax.  8-7


T. Sax.  8-7

Tbn.  8-7

Gtr.  8-7 E-7 E-7 14-7/E 8-7/E E-7 E-7 Sh/A Ahah Ohaug Eaugh/4 8-7

Pno.  8-7 E-7 E-7 14-7/E 8-7/E E-7 E-7 Sh/A Ahah Ohaug Eaugh/4 8-7

Cb.  8-7 E-7 E-7 14-7/E 8-7/E 8-7

D. S.  43 RUN TEMPLIN TIME

50

Bb Tpt.  C-7 F7 Shus7 E-7 A7 Dsus7 Eb-7 Ab7 Dsus7 C#-7 G#7

A. Sax.  C-7 F7 Shus7 E-7 A7 Dsus7 Eb-7 Ab7 Dsus7 C#-7 G#7

T. Sax.  C-7 F7 Shus7 E-7 A7 Dsus7 Eb-7 Ab7 Dsus7 C#-7 G#7

Tbn.  50 C-7 F7 Shus7 E-7 A7 Dsus7 Eb-7 Ab7 Dsus7 C#-7 G#7

Gtr.  50 C-7 F7 Shus7 E-7 A7 Dsus7 Eb-7 Ab7 Dsus7 C#-7 G#7

Pno.  50 C-7 F7 Shus7 E-7 A7 Dsus7 Eb-7 Ab7 Dsus7 C#-7 G#7

Cb.  50 C-7 F7 Shus7 E-7 A7 Dsus7 Eb-7 Ab7 Dsus7 C#-7 G#7

D. S.  50

57

Bb Tpt. *Bm117 B-7 E7 Am117 Eb-7 Ab7 Dbm117 D-7 G7 Cm117*

A. Sax. *Bm117 B-7 E7 Am117 Eb-7 Ab7 Dbm117 D-7 G7 Cm117*

T. Sax. *Bm117 B-7 E7 Am117 Eb-7 Ab7 Dbm117 D-7 G7 Cm117*

Tbn. *Bm117 B-7 E7 Am117 Eb-7 Ab7 Dbm117 D-7 G7 Cm117*

Gtr. *Bm117 B-7 E7 Am117 Eb-7 Ab7 Dbm117 D-7 G7 Cm117*

Pno. *Bm117 B-7 E7 Am117 Eb-7 Ab7 Dbm117 D-7 G7 Cm117*

Ch. *Bm117 B-7 E7 Am117 Eb-7 Ab7 Dbm117 D-7 G7 Cm117*

D. S. *57*

64 *C#-7 F#7 D.C. al Fine After Solos*

Bb Tpt. *C#-7 F#7 D.C. al Fine After Solos*

A. Sax. *C#-7 F#7 D.C. al Fine After Solos*

T. Sax. *C#-7 F#7 D.C. al Fine After Solos*

Tbn. *64 C#-7 F#7 D.C. al Fine After Solos*

Gtr. *64 C#-7 F#7 D.C. al Fine After Solos*

Pno. *64 C#-7 F#7 D.C. al Fine After Solos*

Ch. *64 C#-7 F#7 D.C. al Fine After Solos*

D. S. *64 D.C. al Fine After Solos*